

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, July 19, 2016

PLACE: West Lafayette Public Library / Walnut Room

PRESENT:	Dave Buck	Troy Harris	Doug Payne
	Emily Johncox	Carrie Ehresman	Jim Knapp
	Kathleen Mills	Ralph Bline	Larry Preo
	Kumares Sinha	Thomas Schwartzel	

VISITORS:	Ed Garrison	Jennifer Mullett	Jacob Boesch
	Jeremy Ervin	Andrea Kaufman	

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order at 5:00pm and determined there was a quorum.

Mr. Jim Knapp made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2016 meeting. Mr. Ralph Bline seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Happy Hollow Road Semi Ordinance:

Mr. Dave Buck recommends changing the name to City Wide Heavy Vehicle Ordinance.

Mr. Ed Garrison stated that the Engineers office is in the beginning phases of updating the current City Code Section 40.19 – 40.21, enacted in 1960. He along with the current engineering interns have been working on updating the ordinance pertaining to heavy vehicles. Mr. Garrison introduced engineering intern, Mr. Jacob Boesch to present the proposed changes to the current ordinance.

Mr. Boesch noted that in researching other city's policies and routes, it was found that Tampa, Florida had a good, detailed ordinance and truck route policy that a lot of the proposed changes have been based on. The proposed changes can be reviewed at: [Ordinance Draft](http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/eGov/documents/1471880708_80757.pdf) (http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/eGov/documents/1471880708_80757.pdf)

Sec. 40.01 - A proposed change to the current ordinance is the definition of a commercial or heavy vehicle to be identified by number of tires rather than by weight. This would make it easier for law enforcement to enforce the ordinance.

Sec. 40.20 - Another proposed change is to provide a map that shows both the best route to bypass West Lafayette and best routes to get through the city for local deliveries instead of giving a list of preferred streets for trucks to travel on. This would make it easier for users to map a route and easier for the city to maintain.

Mr. Boesch reported that the use of positive signage that indicates where trucks are allowed to go instead of stating where they are not allowed, has been shown to create a significant decrease in violations and reduces the cost to enact the ordinance.

Mr. Kumares Sinha stated that there is a Federal Highway Truck classification that gives the legal definition of truck size. Mr. Sinha suggested adding this definition to be legally precise. Mr. Sinha stated that he would forward this information to Mr. Buck to consider.

Mr. Blaine asked about the volume of truck traffic and the enforceability of the ordinance as well as how wide spread the problem is aside from Happy Hollow?

Mr. Troy Harris stated that the police will not be stopping trucks and asking where they are going or what they are doing. Mr. Harris explained that the goal of Mr. Garrison's plan for changing the definition of a truck is to make it simple to enforce without having portable scales like the DOT has available.

Mr. Buck stated that he does not believe truck traffic is a significant problem and that the Engineering Department does not receive a lot of complaints about this.

Ms. Carrie Ehresman questioned the practicality of the policing of the ordinance.

Mr. Buck replied, the ordinance is designed more to promote the preferred routes to be used by trucks rather than the policing and enforcing of streets not to be used. With the use of positive signage and by reaching out to Google maps and other GPS services to promote this as the preferred routes, the goal is to reduce truck traffic on smaller residential roads.

Ms. Kathleen Mills questioned the time restriction, restricting deliveries between 5:30 PM and 7:00 AM.

Mr. Garrison stated that the time restriction was in the original ordinance but that it can be changed. He suggested removing the time restriction all together and relying on the noise ordinance to address the issue if a problem arose.

Mr. Buck noted that we may want to promote 3rd shift deliveries in some areas to reduce congestion during busy traffic times.

Mr. Harris stated that the noise ordinance would cover any complaint and would be enforced between the hours of 9:00pm – 7:00am if it was determined to be a nuisance.

Mr. Garrison stated that the fine schedule has not yet been addressed and that the Engineering Department will work with the Police Department and the legal team on this issue.

Mr. Sinha stated that this is a first review of the proposed changes. The next step would be to revise the changes and address a fine schedule for a second review by the traffic commission.

River Road speed limit:

Mr. Garrison of the City Engineer's office stated that concerns have been brought to the West Lafayette Police Department and the City Engineer's Office regarding safety and visibility at the intersection of Happy Hollow Road and River Road and the intersection of Catherwood Drive and River Road. The Engineer's office has completed a safety study taking into account speed limit, site distance and crash history.

Mr. Garrison presented the findings of the study, which can be reviewed at: [River Road Traffic Report](http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/eGov/documents/1471880864_71597.pdf) (http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/eGov/documents/1471880864_71597.pdf)

Ms. Ehresman asked why the City can't just put a stoplight in at those locations.

Mr. Buck stated that the Engineering Department looked at this intersection when Happy Hollow Road was designed between 2010 – 2013 and based on that study, those intersections did not and could not meet the criteria for a stoplight or a roundabout.

Mr. Garrison stated that a recommendations could be to reduce the 40mph section of River Road to 30mph. To the north of this area, the County section of road is 50mph, which would stay the same. Additionally, trees can be trimmed back to alleviate sight distance issues.

Mr. Buck recommended putting a 40 mph sign north of Catherwood and adding advanced intersection signage on River Road to alert drivers that there are intersections ahead. He also recommended to continue looking at the speed limit before making any changes and to trim any brush away from sight distance lines.

Mr. Sinah agreed with Mr. Buck's recommendations. Mr. Blin concurred.

NEW BUSINESS:

Traffic signal timing on State Street:

Ms. Emily Johncox brought a question to the commission that was asked of her regarding the traffic signals on State Street.

Ms. Johncox stated that when traveling on State Street, a driver is being stopped by red lights at Memorial Drive, Jischke Drive and University Street when there is no other crossing traffic. Ms. Johncox questioned if there is the possibility of sensors and improved efficiency at these signals?

Mr. Buck answered that this is part of the State Street Redevelopment Project and a long running City project to develop a more advanced automated traffic management system or ATMS where our traffic signals will be inter-connected. Mr. Buck continued to explain that the City will be able to use a software program that was purchased at RDC last month to gather data and retime signals to traffic patterns on its own as it sees lower volumes. Mr. Buck also stated that Northwestern Avenue and Salisbury Street have already been completed and they are being installed now on River Road with the CSO project. Unfortunately with the construction on State Street for the next 2 to 3 years, we will not see any immediate improvement but we are close to being able to plug everything together and have that ability.

Large shrub at Crawford & Lagrange:

Ms. Kathleen Mills brought a question to the commission regarding a large shrub at the northwest corner of Crawford and Lagrange that is blocking the view of traffic coming from the west.

Mr. Buck responded that the City Engineer's office will contact the NRT to take a look at it and see that it be trimmed. If it is in the right-of-way, the City can take care of it.

Pedestrian crosswalk at Northwestern parking garage:

Mr. Sinha brought up the traffic light on Northwestern and the left turn arrow at the visitor's parking garage. He had a question asked of him as to why the light is red when it does not conflict with the pedestrian crosswalk.

Mr. Buck explained that while it was not originally set like that, pedestrians were starting across early and cutting into the path of the traffic so the setting had to be changed for safety.

With no other business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.

2016 MEETING INFORMATION:

- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, September 20, 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November 15, 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Buck, P.E.
Public Works Director

DMB/jm